United Nations A/68/PV.84

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

84th plenary meeting
Wednesday, 23 April 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 138 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General (A/68/716/Add.10)

The Acting President: Before proceeding to the items on our agenda, I should like, in keeping with established practice, to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/68/716/Add.10, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the General Assembly that, since the issuance of his communication contained in document A/68/716/Add.9, Vanuatu has made the payment necessary to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in that document?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The Acting President: I now draw the attention of the General Assembly to draft resolution A/68/L.38/Rev.1, circulated under sub-item (b) of agenda item 22, entitled "Comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action". Members will recall that, at its second plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013, the General Assembly decided to allocate sub-item (b) of agenda item 22 to the Second Committee. To enable the General Assembly to take action expeditiously on that document, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to consider sub-item (b) of agenda item 22 directly in the plenary meeting and to proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 22 (*continued*)

Groups of countries in special situations

(b) Comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

Draft resolution (A/68/L.38/Rev.1)

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to introduce draft resolution A/68/L.38/Rev.1.

Ms. Rios Requena (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia wishes, on behalf give 77 and China, to express its gratitude to the delegations that participated in, and supported the negotiation process on, the draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries" (A/68/L.38/Rev.1).

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14-30682 (E)

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Accordingly, the delegation of Bolivia wishes to thank the delegation of Bulgaria for facilitating the informal consultations, the delegation of Austria for hosting the Conference, the delegation of Zambia, which held the presidency of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, the delegation of Paraguay for coordinating the informal consultative process on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries and the Group of 77 and China, and the delegations of the associated countries to the cause of landlocked developing countries for their contributions and support during the informal consultation process on the draft resolution.

Furthermore, the chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China calls for the inclusion of the delegations of Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/68/L.38/Rev.1, entitled "Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries".

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/68/L.38/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/68/L.38/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 68/270).

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Zambia, who wishes to make a statement following the adoption of resolution 68/270.

Ms. Kasese-Bota (Zambia): I wish to thank the President for convening today's meeting on sub-item (b) of agenda item 22, entitled "Comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action". I wish also to express my gratitude to the delegations of Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, which coordinated the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, for their excellent work. We also thank our partners for their contribution, which has led to the resolution just adopted by consensus (resolution 68/270).

The adoption of the resolution, which focuses on the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, is of great significance to the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries as we look forward to reviewing the Almaty Programme of Action. The Almaty Programme of Action, which was adopted 10 years ago, has played its part in improving the economic and social development of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) during its implementation, despite great differences among individual landlocked developing countries.

Progress has been made in upgrading and expanding the road transport infrastructure in some LLDC regions. Some progress has also been achieved towards "soft" infrastructure development and the harmonization of transport, transit policies, laws, procedures and practices. Those efforts made in improving transit, transport and trade facilitation policies have begun to yield positive results, especially in terms of reducing the time required to import or export commodities and other goods.

However, the LLDC group still faces a great number of challenges, including the transit-transport infrastructure for LLDCs, which remains inadequate and has some missing links. The LLDCs have limited productive capabilities and constrained ability to add value, especially in the agricultural and mining sectors, against the backdrop of a declining industrial base. Furthermore, those difficulties are exacerbated by multiple emerging global challenges, including rising food and fuel prices, economic and financial crises and climate change, with LLDCs having limited resilience and mitigating capacities to respond to those challenges.

Strengthening international partnerships with and support for LLDCs is therefore of paramount importance to stepped-up efforts aimed at achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the highlighted special needs of LLDCs in the post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, we expect the Conference to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, as well as the actions and initiatives needed to overcome them. The Conference will also formulate and adopt a new development partnership framework for the next decade to support LLDCs and provide aid for the post-2015 development agenda.

In particular, we hope that the Conference will address those issues related to infrastructure development, transit issues, trade facilitation and development, regional integration and policy frameworks designed to reduce prohibitive transit costs and enable the LLDCs to fully participate in global trade. We also hope that the Conference will address broader issues, including structural transformation, value addition, export diversification, the improvement

of productive capacities and building LLDC resilience in the face of shocks such as the effects of climate change, desertification and economic crises, and the mobilization of additional international support measures in favour of the LLDCs.

Lastly, we look forward to the active participation of Member States in June and October 2014 at our Preparatory Committee meetings and at the Conference to be held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 22.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

United Nations A/68/PV.85

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

85th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 13 May 2014, noon
New York

President: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)

The meeting was called to order at 12.15 p.m.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: The Assembly now has before it a report of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (b) of agenda item 116, entitled "Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions" (A/68/558/Add.2). In order for the Assembly to consider the report of the Fifth Committee under the sub-item, it will be necessary to reopen the Assembly's consideration of that sub-item. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 116 and to proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 116 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/558/Add.2)

The President: In paragraph 3 of the report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Fu Daopeng of China and Mr. Kunal Khatri of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as members of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 13 May 2014 and ending on 31 December 2014.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint Mr. Fu Daopeng of China and Mr. Kunal Khatri of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as members of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 13 May 2014 and ending on 31 December 2014?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 116?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution (A/68/L.45)

The President: The Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 118, Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, to take action on a draft resolution entitled "Scope and modalities of the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases", issued as document A/68/L.45.

Members will recall that the Assembly held a debate on agenda item 118 jointly with agenda item 14 and agenda item 125 at its 54th plenary meeting on 20 November 2013.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

14-33143 (E)

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We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/68/L.45. I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Zhang Saijin (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/68/L.45, entitled "Scope and modalities of the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Under the terms of paragraphs 1 and 10 of draft resolution A/68/L.45, the Assembly would decide to convene a high-level meeting to undertake the comprehensive review and assessment on 10 and 11 July 2014, consisting of an opening plenary meeting, on 10 July 2014, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., followed by plenary meetings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and two consecutive round tables on 11 July 2014, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by a closing plenary meeting, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.; request the President of the General Assembly, no later than June 2014 and in consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia, to hold an informal interactive hearing with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to provide input to the comprehensive review and assessment.

Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that the plenary meetings and the round tables at the high-level meeting will comprise a total of four meetings, with interpretation in all six languages, and that no parallel meetings will take place. On that basis, interpretation services for the four meetings will be provided using the meeting entitlement of the General Assembly. Those meetings will not constitute additions to the meetings work-load of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

With regard to the request contained in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, the informal interactive hearing will use the meeting entitlement of the General Assembly on the understanding that there will be no parallel meetings of the General Assembly. The date of the informal interactive hearing will have to be determined in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. Therefore, the informal interactive hearing would not constitute an addition to the meeting workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/68/L.45, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for biennium 2014-2015.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/68/L.45, entitled "Scope and modalities of the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases". May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt it?

Draft resolution A/68/L.45 was adopted (resolution 68/271).

The President: I give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Poulsen (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. We would like to extend our thanks and deep appreciation to Ambassador Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium, and Ambassador Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica, for their tireless efforts in facilitating the discussions on resolution 68/271 and their outstanding work in conducting the consultations openly and transparently.

First, the EU and its member States unambiguously reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the 2011 Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (resolution 66/2). We stress the importance we attach to the prevention and control, including monitoring, of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which constitute one of the major challenges of the disease burden of both developing and developed countries in the twenty-first century. We look forward to being an active and constructive partner in taking the NCD agenda further, including during the upcoming comprehensive review and assessment in July.

Engaging with relevant non-State actors, including non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and business, is

expected to encourage and promote the contributions of partners to addressing the NCD burden. Therefore, in discussing this modalities resolution, we reiterated the importance of ensuring the full participation of relevant non-State actors in the review and of providing transparency in the way they would be allowed to participate in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly.

We firmly believe that maintaining a strong and open dialogue with genuine and relevant non-State actors is important to the success of the high-level review of NCDs. That is why we consistently defended, throughout the consultations on the draft resolution — as we have in other instances — that the process of admitting non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and business to participate in the round tables should be completely transparent and allow for the full involvement of the General Assembly. Therefore, our interpretation of paragraph 7 of the resolution is that within the General Assembly, Member States will be able to examine and challenge possible objections made by other States to the presence of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector in an open and transparent fashion.

The EU and its member States remain strongly committed to ensuring an improved, more open and transparent process for the participation of those actors in relevant United Nations meetings. We will continue to actively engage in debates on non-communicable diseases and look forward to a successful and fully inclusive review in July.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Favero (Brazil): I congratulate the facilitators, Ambassadors Bénédicte Frankinet of Belgium and Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica, for their successful efforts in bringing to a conclusion resolution 68/271, entitled "Scope and modalities of the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases". I also thank the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago for its coordination on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and all members for their constructive contributions.

Considering the time spent on the issue and its relevance to consensus, it is important to recall that the rules of procedure of the General Assembly will apply to the review process on non-communicable diseases. On that particular issue, I wish to put on record in the minutes of the meeting the following clarification from the Head of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in a communication to the facilitators.

> "I am writing in response to your request made in your capacity as co-facilitators with reference to the text of the draft resolution, entitled 'Scope and modalities of the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases', that was shared with the Secretariat of the General Assembly on 30 April 2014.
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> "In paragraph 1 of the draft text, the Assembly would decide to convene a high-level meeting on 10 and 11 July 2014, consisting of plenary meetings and panel discussions. I should like to confirm that the aforementioned meetings are meetings of the General Assembly, and therefore the rules of procedure of the Assembly will apply. Consequently, the established practice of the Assembly would also be adhered to in relation to the conduct of the meeting, as is the case for all meetings of the General Assembly."

Brazil is committed to the fight against non-communicable diseases and as Member States prepare to negotiate the draft outcome document of the high-level meeting, I assure the Assembly of my delegation's constructive engagement.

The President: Permit me to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the facilitators — the Permanent Representative of Belgium and the Permanent Representative of Jamaica — who so ably and patiently conducted the discussions and complex negotiations in the informal consultations, and to all Member States for their valuable contributions to the successful completion of resolution 68/271.

The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 118.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.